

5/9/04

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Please amend claims 1, 3, and 5, and add new claim 14 as follows:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A transport member consisting essentially of fiber-reinforced plastic,

wherein said transport member is used for transporting an article to be transported, said transport member is supported in a cantilever state while transporting the article, and

said transport member has a logarithmic vibration damping factor of 0.01 to 0.05 against bending vibration;

wherein said fiber-reinforced plastic comprises:

at least one first layer containing a unidirectional reinforced fiber, oriented by -20° to $+20^{\circ}$ with respect to a longitudinal direction of said transport member, having a tensile elasticity of 500 to 1000 GPa; and

at least one second layer containing a unidirectional reinforced fiber, oriented by $+75^{\circ}$ to $+90^{\circ}$ or -75° to -90° with respect to said longitudinal direction of said transport member, having a tensile elasticity of 200 to 400 GPa.

2. (Previously Amended) A transport member according to claim 1, wherein said fiber-reinforced plastic further comprises at least one third layer, said at least one third layer containing a unidirectional reinforced fiber, oriented by $+30^{\circ}$ to $+60^{\circ}$

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or -30° to -60° with respect to said longitudinal direction of said transport member, having a tensile elasticity of 500 to 1000 GPa.

3. (Currently Amended) A transport member comprising skin and core layers consisting essentially of a fiber-reinforced plastic;

wherein said transport member is used for transporting an article to be transported, said transport member is supported in a cantilever state while transporting the article,

said transport member has a logarithmic vibration damping factor of 0.01 to 0.05 against bending vibration; and

said skin layer comprises at least two first layers containing a unidirectional reinforced fiber, oriented by -20° to +20° with respect to a longitudinal direction of said transport member, having a tensile elasticity of 500 to 1000 GPa.

4. (Previously Amended) A transport member according to claim 3, wherein said core layer comprises at least two second layers containing a unidirectional reinforced fiber, oriented by +75° to +90° or -75° to -90° with respect to said longitudinal direction of said transport member, having a tensile elasticity of 200 to 400 GPa; or at least one third layer containing a unidirectional reinforced fiber, oriented by +30° to +60° or -30° to -60° with respect to said longitudinal direction of said transport member, having a tensile elasticity of 500 to 1000 GPa.

5. (Currently Amended) A transport member comprising laminated skin and core layers made of carbon-fiber reinforced plastic,

wherein said transport member is used for transporting an article to be transported;

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wherein said transport member is supported in a cantilever state while transporting the article;

said transport member has a logarithmic vibration damping factor of 0.01 to 0.05 against bending vibration; and

said skin layer comprises:

a first layer containing a first carbon fiber, oriented by an angle range of -20° to +20° with respect to a longitudinal direction of said transport member, having a tensile elasticity of 500 to 1000 GPa; and

a second layer containing a second carbon fiber, oriented by an angle range of +75° to +90° or -75° to -90° with respect to said longitudinal direction, having a tensile elasticity of 200 to 400 GPa.

6. (Original) A transport member according to claim 1, 3, or 5, wherein said transport member has a bending elasticity of 200 to 800 GPa in said longitudinal direction, and a bending elasticity of 30 to 100 GPa in a transverse direction thereof.

7. (Original) A transport member according to claim 3 or 5, wherein said transport member satisfies the relationship represented by the following expression (1):

$$(T_s + T_c) \times 0.2 \leq T_s \leq (T_s + T_c) \times 0.4 \quad (1)$$

where

T_s is the thickness of said skin layer; and

T_c is the thickness of said core layer.

8. (Original) A transport member according to claim 3 or 5, wherein said first layer in said skin layer has a volume of 20 to 10 vol % in said skin layer.

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9. (Original) A transport member according to claim 4 or 5, wherein said second layer has a volume of 0 to 80 vol % in said skin layer.
10. (Original) A transport member according to claim 4, wherein said third layer in said core layer has a volume of 0 to 20 vol % in said core layer.
11. (Original) A transport member according to claim 1, 3, or 5, wherein said transport member has a logarithmic vibration damping factor of 0.01 to 0.05 against bending vibration.
12. (Original) A transport member according to claim 3 or 5, wherein said core layer has a bulk specific gravity falling within the range of 0.03 to 1.7 and smaller than that of said skin layer.
13. (Original) A transport member according to claim 5, wherein said core layer comprises a honeycomb, a porous body, a corrugated sheet, a fiber-reinforced plastic, or a resin sheet.
14. (New) A transport member according to claim 1, 3, or 5, wherein said transport member has a general fork shape, and comprises a proximal portion secured to a fixing element to define said cantilever state, and a bifurcated portion supporting the article to be transported.

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